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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Yasushi Kasajima

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EXAMINER

DESHPANDE, KALYAN K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/09/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/863,613	Applicant(s) KASAJIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Kalyan K. Deshpande	Art Unit 3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2008.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-21 is/are pending in the application.

 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-21 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. The following is a non-final office action in response to the communications received on April 29, 2008. Claims 14-21 are pending in this application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 29, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendments

3. Applicants' cancellation of claims 1, 4, 7-11, and 13 is acknowledged. New claims 14-21 are acknowledged.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicants' arguments filed on August 2, 2007 have been fully considered but are moot under new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Homeauto (<http://www.homeauto.com/>, Internet Archive, May 1999) in view of Brodmer (U.S. Patent No. 6263260).

As per claim 15, “a system for offering information service relating to daily living circumstances to a specific customer staying or living in a dwelling house or office building timely over a communications network” (see Homeauto page 3), “said system comprising: a dwelling management server comprised of a multi-functional communication terminal unit connected to said communication network for always monitoring the monitoring information of living facilities and equipment used in said dwelling house or office building and an information communication network connected to said living facilities and equipment by way of two-way communication, and having an operational and display screen having a menu for executing a function for remote controlling and monitoring said living facilities and equipment and a function for displaying display information received from an external server connected to said communication network and equipped outside of said dwelling house or office building” (see Homeauto pages 3-9; where a server is interfaced with several components. Each component monitors and controls living facilities. A display device is used for controlling the system.) and “wherein said dwelling management server monitors the monitoring information of said living facilities and equipment and automatically sends immediately from said dwelling management server said monitoring information to a service server equipped on said communication network when there occurs change in monitoring information or at specific time intervals when there is no change in said monitoring

information" (see Homeauto pages 3-9; where changes are detected based on the monitoring. Specific time intervals are also monitored.). Homeauto fails to explicitly teach "said server analyzes said monitoring information sent from said dwelling management server introduction information on products or services selected from the information prepared in advance in reply to the received monitoring information" (emphasis added). Bodmer, in an analogous art, teaches "said server analyzes said monitoring information sent from said dwelling management server introduction information on products or services selected from the information prepared in advance in reply to the received monitoring information" (see Bodmer column 5 lines 54-65; where user behavior is analyzed in order to optimize comfort.). Bodmer fails to explicitly teach that the server "stores" the monitoring information. Examiner takes official notice that it is old and well-known in the art to store monitoring information. The advantage of such a feature is that it keeps logs of behaviors occurred and enables the adaptation of automation based on typical behavior patterns, thereby increasing the accuracy of any such automation system. It would have been obvious, at the time of the invention, to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the features taught by Bodmer to Homeauto to include these features in order to further increase the accuracy of the system.

As per claim 16, "wherein said multifunctional communication terminal unit has a request receiving screen on which requests and inquiries from said specific customers in said dwelling house or office building are displayed" and "wherein said service server analyzes said inquiry and requests received through said request receiving screen and

sends back as visual information most appropriate advice information selected from various advices prepared in advance to said dwelling management server”.

As per claim 17, “wherein an emergency calling device is further included as said living facilities and equipment”, “wherein said service server further comprises a user’s management database where location information including address or telephone numbers of said dwelling house is stored”, and “wherein said service server reports an emergency calling signal to public organs selected from the group consisting of firestations and police stations, together with location information, referring to said user’s management database, on receiving said emergency calling signal sent from said emergency calling device”.

As per claim 18, Homeauto teaches “wherein a center management server with a customer’s use actual result is further equipped on said communication network”, “wherein said dwelling management server comprises means for collecting use actual result information on said living facilities and equipment and sending said actual result information to said center management server”, and “wherein said center management server analyzes said use actual result and stores the analysis results in said use actual result database, on receiving said use actual result information from said dwelling management server” (see Homeauto pages 8-9).

As per claim 19, Homeauto fails to explicitly teach “wherein said center management server further comprises means for executing a program prepared in advance to automatically prepare a market trend investigation report in a specific form, referring to said actual result database as necessary and for sending said market trend investigation report thus prepared to other communication terminals of product manufactures equipped on said communication network”. Bodmer, in an analogous art, explicitly teaches “wherein said center management server further comprises means for executing a program prepared in advance to automatically prepare a market trend investigation report in a specific form, referring to said actual result database as necessary and for sending said market trend investigation report thus prepared to other communication terminals of product manufactures equipped on said communication network” (see Bodmer column 5 lines 54-65). The advantage of such a feature is that it improves the accuracy and intelligence of the system. It would have been obvious, at the time of the invention, to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine this feature taught by Bodmer to Homeauto in order to increase the accuracy and intelligence of the system.

As per claim 20, Homeauto teaches “wherein said information, communication network comprises a power supply and information network for supplying electric power to said living facilities and equipment and sends control signal from said dwelling management server to said living facilities and equipment” (see Homeauto pp. 8-9).

As per claim 21, Homeauto fails to explicitly teach “wherein said power supply and information network has a power information integration distribution board connected to a power distribution board supplying electric power within said dwelling house or office building” and “wherein said power information integration distribution board is connected to said dwelling management server, supplies electric power to said living facilities and equipment and further transmits and receives said control signals from said dwelling management server through a feed control line led out from said power information integration distribution board”. Examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well-known in the art to include features of “wherein said power supply and information network has a power information integration distribution board connected to a power distribution board supplying electric power within said dwelling house or office building” and “wherein said power information integration distribution board is connected to said dwelling management server, supplies electric power to said living facilities and equipment and further transmits and receives said control signals from said dwelling management server through a feed control line led out from said power information integration distribution board”. The advantage of such features is that they further the automation of the system. It would have been obvious, at the time of the invention, to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Homeauto to explicitly include these features in order to further the automation of the system.

Claim 14 recite limitations already addressed by the rejection of claims 15-21; therefore the same rejections apply to this claim.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kalyan K. Deshpande whose telephone number is (571)272-5880. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jeffrey A. Smith/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3625

/KKD/